

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 506

By Johnson

A RESOLUTION to designate October 2018 as "Eczema Awareness Month" in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, eczema is a set of skin conditions that cause red, itchy, and inflamed skin and has profound medical, psychosocial, and economic impacts on patients, families, and their communities; and

WHEREAS, the prevalence of eczema in the United States is 10.1 percent; and

WHEREAS, eczema impacts over 31.6 million children and adults in the United States alone; and

WHEREAS, eczema's medical impacts include dry, cracked, and scaly skin; incessant itch, chronic pain, and sleep deprivation; and

WHEREAS, 41.5 percent of adult eczema patients report having a co-occurring diagnosis of depression, and 47.9 percent report having a co-occurring diagnosis of asthma; and

WHEREAS, adults and children with eczema frequently also experience comorbidities like asthma, allergic rhinitis, food allergies, ADHD, bacterial and viral infections, and hypertension; and

WHEREAS, eczema's disease burden also includes anxiety, stress on social and intimate relationships, increased suicidal ideation, delayed developmental achievement, reduced self-esteem, restrictions on diet and exercise, extensive caregiver burdens, and challenges with medication adherence; and

WHEREAS, eczema results in missed days of school and work for patients and caregivers, disability and reduced ability within a patient's chosen profession, unemployment and underemployment, and other opportunity costs; and

WHEREAS, the direct medical costs of the three most common types of eczema exceed \$2.17 billion and the indirect medical costs exceed \$927 million; and

WHEREAS, two-thirds of eczema patients report experiencing significant access barriers, including high out-of-pocket costs and insurance requirements that delay patients' access to medications; and

WHEREAS, there is no cure for eczema but emerging technologies and medications promise a much brighter future for eczema patients; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby designate the month of October 2018 as "Eczema Awareness Month" in Tennessee and encourage the residents of our State to show support for Eczema Awareness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.